

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE JASON ROJAS
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
In favor of **H.B. 5437**
March 24th, 2022

Chairs Osten and Walker, Ranking Members Miner and France, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **H.B. 5437: AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET**.

The state budget should be a reflection of our priorities as a legislature. Among those priorities should be ensuring that every resident is afforded opportunity to succeed, which includes investing in programs to undo the damage of years of unequal treatment under the law. An emphasis on equity is an important step towards ensuring every Connecticut resident receives equal support and opportunity.

H.B. 5437: AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET requires that the next biennium budget proposal comes with a clear explanation of the efforts the state is taking to further equity. In creating a more equitable state, it is essential that we ensure calls for equity go well beyond just words. This bill enables action, and allows legislators to analyze both process and outcomes, as we continue to guarantee equal opportunities for all residents of Connecticut.

I request favorable consideration in moving this bill forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J-Rojas".

Jason Rojas